

# 4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
~Matthew 16:18



December 13, 2020

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
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www.4thstreetcoc.org  
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## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service ..... N/A  
Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class ..... N/A  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

## Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

## Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

## Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
World Bible School

## What Is In Store for America?

What does God have in store for the USA? I do not know, but I know what He does NOT have in store. Friends, the USA will not last forever. The USA is not the everlasting kingdom foretold in the Old Testament to begin in Jerusalem during the days of the Roman kings (Dan. 2; Isa. 2; Joel 2; Hag. 2). The USA is not the "holy nation" referred to in 1 Peter 2:9. It's not the kingdom that will be delivered up to God when Jesus returns (1 Cor. 15:22-24). Those descriptions belong solely to the Lord's church/nation/kingdom that He died to establish (Matt. 16:18-19, 28; Acts 20:28). The USA needs to remember what Psalm 9:17 says: "*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God*" (cf. Prov. 14:34). If the USA chooses the path of rebellion against God, that path leads to destruction.

Also remember that God has often used even wicked leaders to accomplish His will (Exod. 9:16; Dan. 4:17; Hab. 1; John 19:11). There are things God does in His providence that are beyond our understanding (Isa. 55:8-9; Rom. 11:33; 13:1-7). Clearly, God's main goal is for people to be in Heaven with Him forever (Rom. 5:8-10; 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9). This nation and this world need to be seen the way God does, with eternity in mind (1 Cor. 2:16; 2 Cor. 4:16-18).

I love the USA, and I am not saying the USA is about to fall, but one day it will come to its end, just like every other earthly nation (2 Pet. 3:10-12). Until then, Christians in America need to pray for its leaders and be godly citizens (Rom. 13; 1 Tim. 2:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:13-23). We need to make sure we are faithful members of Christ's everlasting kingdom and that our citizenship is in Heaven (Matt. 16:18-19, 28; Col. 1:13; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 12:22-29; Rev. 1:9). Maybe we need to be reminded that Christians are like those of ancient times who were "*strangers and pilgrims on the earth,*" desiring "*a better country, that is, a heavenly*" (Heb. 11:13-16; cf. Matt. 6:19-21; Col. 3:1-2).

When I compare Christ's kingdom to the USA, I'm so thankful our King does not change every four years! I'm so thankful our King can never be defeated by His enemies! I'm so thankful that our King loves righteousness and hates all sin! That is why God the Father exalted His Son Jesus to be our Righteous King — the King of all kings (Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1:9; Rev. 17:14). Our King does not use profanity. He is the epitome of humility. He hates the shedding of innocent blood. He hates racism, adultery, homosexuality, pedophilia, and sins of every kind (Prov. 6:16-19; Luke 10:25-37; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Jude 7). He has never committed even one sin (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22).

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**Please practice COVID precautions,  
for your own safety and the safety of your brethren.**

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

(Continued from page 1)

Our King commands men to love God first and love their neighbors as much as they love themselves (Matt. 22:36-40; Phil. 2:3-5). He commands His followers to pray for their enemies and do good to them (Matt. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:9-21), and if there is one thing our nation is missing, it's LOVE! That is because most people do not understand who the True Ruler is, and that He is love (1 John 4:8-11). One day they will. One day every person who has ever lived will bow down before King Jesus, confessing His glory with their mouths: "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Rom. 14:11; cf. Phil. 2:9-11). On that day it will be too late to be saved from God's wrath. There is no day that compares with the day the Lord God Almighty returns in judgment against this wicked world — the day the righteous Lamb returns in the clouds as the Lion of Judah (Matt. 24:35-39; 1 Thess. 4:13-5:3; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 5:5).

Nothing is more important than getting ready for that day. All men are amenable to King Christ's law, whether they realize it or not. We will all be judged by His Words (Matt. 28:18-20; John 12:48; 1 Cor. 9:21; 2 Cor. 5:10; James 1:22-25). Seek His kingdom now, before it's too late (Matt. 6:33)! A penitent believer in Christ must be born of water and of the Spirit to enter that kingdom, remaining faithful after water baptism (John 3:5; 6:63; Acts 2:36-41; 10:6, 35, 47-48; 22:16; Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10:22-31; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; 1 John 1:6-2:6).

Regardless of who the president is, if persecutions come, or even if the USA falls, citizens of Christ's eternal kingdom can have a peace that passes understanding, trusting God with nothing to fear (Prov. 3:5-6; Rom. 8:31; Phil. 4:4-13; 2 Tim. 1:7). That said, our main mission is to spread God's Word in this world. It will always be controversial (Matt. 28:18-20; John 8:40; Gal. 4:16; 2 Tim. 3:12).

No matter what happens, serve the King, pledge allegiance to Him, and stand up and proclaim His Word without fear!

Jason Patrick Hilburn (Seek The Old Paths, Dec. 2020, p. 89)

# Our Choice of Associates Makes Us Who We Are

The Bible warns us about our choice of associates or friends. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20). "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33).

The reason for the warning is because we become like those with whom we choose to associate.

- We walk like them.
- We talk like them.
- We dress like them.
- We behave like them.
- We like what they like.
- We dislike what they dislike.
- Their attitudes become our attitudes.
- Their views become our views.
- Their habits become our habits.
- Their friends become our friends.
- Their enemies become our enemies.

If our associates are...

- Spiritual, we become spiritual.
- Worldly, we become worldly.
- Negative, we become negative.
- Positive, we become positive.
- Liberal, we become liberal.
- Conservative, we become conservative.
- Honest, we become honest.
- Dishonest, we become dishonest.
- Kind, we become kind.
- Evil, we become evil.

Have you ever seen someone change:

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## Television

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

## Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

## Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org  
Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

## God's Plan for Redeeming Man

**Hear** Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

**Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

**Confess** Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

**Repent** of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)  
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

**Live faithfully** (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

## Bible Reading Schedule

[video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

**Dec. 13** Hosea 10—12; Proverbs 13  
**Dec. 14** Hosea 13—14; Proverbs 14  
**Dec. 15** Joel; Proverbs 15  
**Dec. 16** Amos 1—3; Proverbs 16  
**Dec. 17** Amos 4—6; Proverbs 17  
**Dec. 18** Amos 7—9; Proverbs 18  
**Dec. 19** Obadiah; Proverbs 19  
**Dec. 20** Jonah; Proverbs 20 (video)

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



### Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **30** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ The schedule for this week is the same as last week: assembly for Sunday morning worship only. The worship assembly, as well Sunday evening and Wednesday evening lessons, will be live-streamed over our Facebook group. The schedule past this week is yet to be determined.
  - ◇ Please continue to practice common sense prevention measures. (Wear mask, limit personal contact, social distance, use hand sanitizers, etc.)
  - ◇ Fellowship meals are cancelled, until further notice.
- ◆ A note of appreciation and a memorial contribution in **Royce's** name were received this week from **Susan Ford**.
- ◆ If you have not seen the Rudloff's Christmas light show, swing by their house some evening.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the church and our country.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 14-17—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Jon McCormack

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- After getting a new friend?
- When he/she starts dating?
- When he/she gets into a clique?
- After changing churches?
- After getting a new job?

We have all seen it happen. We wonder: "What has happened to him/her?" Our associates, our friends, are powerful forces in our lives. Thus, we need to carefully examine those with whom we associate. Our merely liking them is not the best reason to stay with them. Do my friends...

- Make me a better person?
- Cause me to treat others better?
- Make me more Christ-like?
- Help me to refrain from sinful things?
- Cause me to be positive?
- Challenge me to grow in Christ?
- Encourage me to put spiritual things first?
- Let me be me?

The Bible does not discourage friendships and associations. It merely exhorts us to make good decisions about who these individuals are. "*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise...*"

Victor M. Eskew (Seek The Old Paths, Dec. 2020, p. 95)

## Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

**December Birthdays:** Kaci Churchwell (18).

**December Anniversaries:** David & Glenda Milam (20), Ken & Jo Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



## Records

	Nov. 29, 2020	Dec. 6, 2020
Bible Class	33	—
AM Worship	37 + [10]	16 + [15]
PM Worship	33 + [6]	[16]
Wednesday PM	—	[22]
Contribution	\$1,670	\$1,105



# Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work," (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 12/13/20	Next Week: 12/20/20		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	<b>December 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Tom & Carol Wilcox <b>Clean Building:</b> Randy & Laura Huckaby  <b>January 2021</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Barnum <b>Clean Building:</b> Barnum	
<b>Greeters</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		James Fuller		
<b>Communion</b>		John Barnum*, Kyle Duaine Ryan Rudloff, Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>		Rafe Smith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Cancelled	Cancelled		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		Tom Wilcox		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Communion</b>		John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>		Randy Huckaby		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	December 16 Cancelled	December 23 TBD	December 30 Don Smith	January 6 Prayer Night

## Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

### Studies for the week of December 13, 2020

Sunday Class ..... **Cancelled**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Exodus 28:1**

<u>Equal With God</u> (John 5:16-47)	<u>Jesus Defending His Disciples Plucking Grain and His Healing on the Sabbath</u>
<p>I. <b>Incriminating Charges</b> (16-18).</p> <p>A. "For this reason [healing on the Sabbath] the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath" (16).</p> <p>B. "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working" (17).</p> <p>C. The Jewish leaders understood the implications of Jesus' words.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"My Father" – implying a special relationship.</li> <li>Jesus pictured God and Himself as being involved in the same activity: "My Father has been working ..., and I have been working."</li> <li>As a result, "the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He ... said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God" (18).</li> </ol> <p>II. <b>Incredible Claims</b> (19-30).</p> <p>A. <b>Jesus' Premise:</b> He and His Father were united in what they did.</p> <p>B. <b>Examples.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>United in giving life.</u></li> <li><u>United in raising the dead.</u></li> <li><u>United in judgment.</u></li> </ol> <p>III. <b>Impeccable Credentials</b> (31-47).</p> <p>A. <b>The Witness of Jesus Himself.</b></p> <p>B. <b>The Witness of The Father.</b></p> <p>C. <b>The Witness of John.</b></p> <p>D. <b>The Witness of Miracles.</b></p> <p>E. <b>The Witness of the Scriptures.</b></p> <p>IV. <b>With this mass of evidence at their disposal, why did the Jewish leaders reject Jesus?</b></p> <p>A. <b>The problem was one of will and heart.</b> "You are not willing to come to Me.... You do not have the love of God in you" (40, 42).</p> <p>B. <b>They were seeking glory from men</b> instead of "the honor that comes from the only God" (44).</p> <p>C. <b>They knew so much that was not true, about things that did not matter, that they were deaf, dumb, and blind to the truth.</b></p> <p>It is indeed sobering to realize that one can be a diligent student of the Word and still miss its saving truth. We must approach the Scriptures with the right attitude ("the love of the truth") and the right purpose ("to know the Lord").</p>	<p>I. <b>Jesus defended His disciples who plucked grain on the Sabbath</b> (Mt. 12:1-8; Mk. 2:23-28; Lk. 6:1-5).</p> <p>A. After Jesus returned to Galilee, one Sabbath He and His disciples were walking through a grainfield, "and His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luke added that the disciples were "rubbing them in their hands" (6:1).</li> <li>A group of Pharisees began to accuse them of breaking the Sabbath.</li> </ol> <p>B. Eating out of someone else's grainfield was permissible (Deut. 23:25), and nothing in the Law would prohibit such an act on the Sabbath.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Pharisees' complaint was based on the Oral Law, not the written law.</li> <li>The Pharisees charge the disciples with breaking the Oral Law; Jesus will justify their actions through the written law.</li> </ol> <p>C. Jesus said that the Pharisees were condemning "the <i>guiltless</i>" (Mt. 12:7). He proceeds to show them "guiltless" on five grounds.</p> <p>II. <b>Jesus defended healing a withered hand on the Sabbath</b> (Mt. 12:9-14; Mk. 3:1-6; Lk. 6:6-11).</p> <p>A. "On another Sabbath," Jesus went into a synagogue where He was allowed to teach.</p> <p>B. Present in the assembly was "a man ... whose right hand was withered."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Pharisees "watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him."</li> <li>Finally, they interrupted, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"</li> </ol> <p>C. Jesus was not intimidated. Having the man "step forward," He asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?"</li> <li>"What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep?"</li> <li>He then answers: "Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."</li> </ol> <p>D. His enemies had been silenced, but were not prepared to admit defeat.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They "went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him."</li> <li>Mark's account added this almost unbelievable detail: "Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him."</li> </ol>